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# **Environment and Natural Resources Committee Minutes**

January 6, 2010 −9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Martin Jaffe – University of

Illinois at Chicago, Patty Werner - Lake County SMC, Lenore Beyer-Clow - Openlands, Ingrid Danler - Fox Waterway Agency, Joe Schuessler - MWRD, Cathy Geraghty - Illinois Association of

Conservation and Forest Preserve Districts, Jeff Mengler –

Chicago Wilderness, Harlan Spiroff - Village Attorney (Spiroff &

Gosselar, LLC), Wally Van Buren – Illinois Association of

Wastewater Agencies, Ken Anderson - Kane County, Sean Weidel

- City of Chicago

**Staff Present:** Jesse Elam, Ylda Capriccioso, Tim Loftus

Others Present: Christina Seaman – Openlands

#### 1.0 Call to Order

Chairman Jack Darin called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

## 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Jesse requested that the staff legislative and water supply updates would be moved to the beginning of the agenda.

#### 3.0 Approval of Minutes from November 4, 2009

Minutes from the November 4, 2009 meeting were approved.

## 4.0 Coordinating Committees Update

The Planning Coordinating Committee met on November 18, but the ENR representative did not attend. The Programming Committee did not meet in November or December.

## 8.0 Water Supply Planning Update

Tim noted that he expected the CMAP regional water supply plan to be approved at the Regional Water Supply Planning Group's January 26 meeting. He also expected to introduce the idea of reconstituting the RWSPG after the plan was complete, but likely as a smaller group. In response to a question about the whether the state had acted to produce a statewide water supply framework as called for in the executive order authorizing the northeastern Illinois water supply plan, Tim said that IDNR had in fact done so as of September 16, but it was still in draft form.

#### 6.0 Legislative Update

Ylda mentioned that CMAP is working on having IDNR incorporate water supply funding in its budget request. CMAP is also trying to secure full funding (\$5 million, \$3.5 m of which goes to CMAP) for the state Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund. Patty said that she would like more information about how much of the CMAP budget is used for environmental purposes; Jesse and Ylda said that could be provided. Ylda asked for resolutions of support from ENR member organizations and said that she would forward a template.

5.0 Water Quality and the Land Use Evolution and Impact Assessment Model
Marty gave a presentation on the Chicago Regional Watershed Planning Model,
referring to a PowerPoint.

## 7.0 GO TO 2040 Update

Jesse asked the committee to review the draft preferred Regional Scenario CMAP had developed as an interim product in GO TO 2040 to set out the direction for the more detailed final plan. He emphasized that the Regional Scenario had been reviewed and commented on previously by ENR committee members and others, and that changes to the document had been made on that basis. After discussion, it was suggested that the "local infrastructure" section needed to emphasize the importance of local efforts to improve stormwater management practices, waterways, and access to parks and open space. Jesse recommended that he draft some suggested edits, then forward them to a subset of the ENR committee (Ingrid, Patty, Lenore, Jeff), which Ingrid would then ask to have included in the final document at the next Planning Committee meeting as a condition of ENR committee acceptance. Patty indicated that the Preferred Regional Scenario should include reference to flood damage reduction and that it should be addressed in GO TO 2040.

Jesse also asked committee members to review the initial draft (dated January 5, 2010) of the parks and open space recommendations for the final plan. A committee member spoke out to say that this is a good role for CMAP and that prioritizing open space regionally would be valuable. It was also suggested that the permanent protection and public accessibility were important conditions on open space in conservation design subdivisions. Another member took issue with the accessibility condition, saying that there was a problem with equity in that (for instance) residents of Prairie Crossing pay for their open space maintenance, but the recommendation would be to have others who did not pay get to use the open space. It was also suggested that boating needed to be part of the open space recommendations.

Another member noted that the target for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County would put the District over its statutory limit on landholding; legislation would have to be passed to make the recommendation feasible, although that would not necessarily be a problem. The DuPage target is low, but that is because the original targets from the Green Infrastructure Vision were never updated. It was also noted that the goal of restoration to pre-settlement conditions may not be viable or desirable in all cases. Referring to the recommendation for harmonizing agency actions with the GO TO 2040 open space targets, another member suggested that incentives for good land use

practices would be a better approach to encouraging compact development than the approach currently taken by the Wastewater Committee. Another member asked why the recommendations did not include environmental constraints on transportation projects. Jesse said that transportation project development is already constrained by environmental permitting requirements, but that the major capital project evaluation undertaken by CMAP would include an estimation of project impacts. Jesse also mentioned that CMAP is drafting existing conditions chapters on "water" and "environment" and would be bringing them to ENR for review over the next couple of months.

8.0 Other business

None.

9.0 Public comment

None.

10.0 Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse Elam, CMAP staff liaison